

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, wherein the module comprises a housing.
3. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.
4. – 6. (Canceled).
7. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, wherein the module comprises optics for at least one of spreading and focusing the stimulating light beam.
8. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, wherein the module comprises at least one retardation plate.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously Presented) A scanning microscope system, comprising:
 - a) a scanning microscope comprising:
 - a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, wherein the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and

b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope and adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope, and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,

wherein the module comprises means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam that generates an internally hollow focus.

11. – 19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) A module for a scanning microscope system, comprising:

multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are configured to shape a stimulating light beam,

wherein the module is configured to connect to a scanning microscope so that it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, and

wherein the scanning microscope comprises:

a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits said stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, wherein the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially;

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and

means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in a focal plane,

wherein the means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in the focal plane generate an internally hollow focus.

21. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.

22. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 10, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.
23. – 28. (Canceled).
29. (New) The module according to Claim 20, further comprising a housing.
30. (New) The module according to Claim 20, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.
31. (New) The module according to Claim 20, wherein the module comprises optics for at least one of spreading and focusing the stimulating light beam.
32. (New) The module according to Claim 20, further comprising at least one retardation plate.
33. (New) The module according to Claim 20, wherein the stimulating light source is a laser.
34. (New) The module according to Claim 20, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.
35. (New) The module according to Claim 20, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.
36. (New) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 10, wherein the stimulating light source is a laser.

37. (New) A scanning microscope system, comprising:

a) a scanning microscope comprising:

a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, wherein the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and

b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope and adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope, and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,

wherein the module comprises optics to influence the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam that generates an internally hollow focus.